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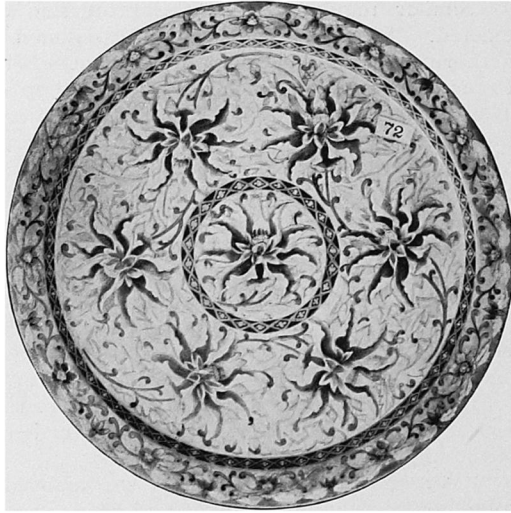
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may well let alone. They may be of service to those who do not have it in them to produce something worthy themselves, but copy is copy—nothing more. And the artist who gets into the copying habit is more than apt to remain a copyist. It may be permissible for a class of students to exhibit the result of their efforts, even though their time may have been devoted exclusively to reproducing casts or prints. It is a different matter



TRAY
By Adelaide L. Lyster

with a body of mature art workers. In this latter case, if ever, one may reasonably expect evidence not merely of technical ability, but of artistic insight, originality, individuality. These witnesses of the *artist* are what we most miss in present-day ceramics; and it is these that we have a right to expect—at least, in public exhibitions.

EDITH PHILLIPS WISEMAN.



ACT TO PREVENT DEFACEMENT OF NATURAL SCENERY

The Prussian government, by the enactment of the following law, has dealt very effectively with the defacement of natural scenery by offensive advertising:

“With the object of preventing the disfigurement of places remarkable for their natural beauty, the police authorities are empowered to prohibit outside of towns (ausserhalb der geschlossenen Ortschaften) such advertising boards or notices or pictorial devices as disfigure the landscape, by means of police regulations issued in accordance with the law of July 30, 1883. Such regulations may apply to particular areas or spots.”

Similar regulations for the protection of urban areas already existed. The central government has issued instructions to the local authorities for the strict enforcement of this measure, and it is expected that many eyesores will cease to affront the public eye. The assent of the Prussian Diet to the project was by no means perfunctory. It decisively rejected all the stock objections raised in favor of this or that class of advertising sign, or in the way of claiming compensation. The committee's report on the bill said:

"What is needed is the creation of a legal basis. We must do for the country what is already recognized as right for the town. The equitable interest of all who love beautiful nature is in question—that is to say, of most persons, whatever their nationality may be, who travel for pleasure. Nor can we overlook the pecuniary loss that will accrue if the progress of disfigurement diminishes the profits from the tourist traffic."

In the final debate in the upper house, Herr Spirtus, in speaking for the committee in charge of the bill, further developed the doctrine of the higher utility, saying:

"We of the Rhine districts see many hundreds of thousands coming every summer from far and near to seek on the sunny heights, wooded hills, and shady valleys rest and delight. All return strengthened and entranced. . . . It is the same elsewhere. I trust that the conviction will grow that it is the sacred duty of our generation, especially of our public men, to preserve for posterity these beautiful tracts of the Fatherland."

In England much attention has been attracted to this law in consequence of a communication on the subject written to the Times by Richardson Evans, the honorable secretary of the Society for Checking the Abuses of Public Advertising, who commends the law for these reasons:

"1. The law is elastic; it places an effective remedy within reach where a grievance exists, but avoids any interference with general usage in the matter of business notices.

"2. It sets up no arbitrary distinction between one class of conspicuous signs and another. The sole criterion is disfiguring effect. There is one and the same rule for the big letters on the wall of a building which announces that it is Messrs. So and So's manufactory and for the multitudinous puffs which the same firm sets up along all the highways of travel."

The Prussian example has been followed by the Hessian legislature, which has included provisions of a similar character in a recent law for the protection of public monuments.

A. P.